

**To Members of the Michigan House Commerce Committee
Regarding: HB 5207**

As a board member of the Asylum Lake Preservation Association (ALPA) I encourage this committee to look more closely at the original language and specific, yet visionary intent of the legislation that conveyed this property known as the Colony Farm Orchard to WMU. It was “solely for public park, recreation, or open space purposes, except that the legislature, by statute, may authorize western Michigan university to utilize the property for some other public purpose.”

We feel it is important that this current legislature understand, respect, and retain the restrictive language for any further conveyance of the property. Although we are dedicated to preserving open space when feasible and for the good of the community, it is especially important to preserve that open space which has already been set aside with restrictions as this parcel has for use by the public. We feel YOU also have a duty to protect what has already been set aside, designated for public use and not forget to protect the land that we have already saved. The lawmakers before you have done the easy part, you have the harder job – to keep it in place. The state allowed WMU to use the land for a clear purpose. Let’s not undo a good thing and keep that restrictive language for our children and grandchildren and show them they can trust us.

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ALPA Secretary